

Conant-Hubbard House  
52 Main Street  
Windsor  
Windsor County  
Vermont

HABS No. VT-63

HABS  
VT  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## CONANT-HUBBARD HOUSE

Location: 52 Main Street, Windsor, Windsor County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Harry Davis, Davis Brothers Garage, 48 Main Street, Windsor, Vermont.

Present Use: Not in use; last used as a private residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This large frame house with a decorated facade originally stood near two houses designed by the architect Asher Benjamin who was in Windsor around 1800. The two Benjamin houses no longer exist, but they appear to have influenced the design of this structure.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners, (from Windsor Town Records, by Miss Katherine Conlin, Windsor Town Clerk):
  - 1797 Transfer of property from Caleb Tuttle to Stephen Conant.
  - 1819 Property with house sold by Stephen Conant to Robert Lord.
  - 1825 Sold by Robert Lord to William Hunter; used as Hunter's office and as a saddler's shop.
  - 1831 Sold by William Hunter to Nahum Trask.
  - 1833 Sold by Nahum Trask to one Hubbard, the house remained in the Hubbard family until about 1955 when it was sold to Harry Davis.
2. Date of erection: Town records indicate only that the house was built when Stephen Conant owned it, i.e. 1797-1819. Child, Gazetteer ... of Windsor County, says that the house was built before 1800 by Stephen Conant.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The structure has been used at various times for different purposes. This has occasioned various additions and alterations, the details of which have not been determined. Rear cellar foundations with no superstructure exist, and the various rear ells were apparently not erected at the same time as the front of the building. The facade survives with the addition of the porch (HABS drawings show the facade without the porch addition). Mr. Davis, the present owner, intends to raze the building to free the property for commercial use.

4. References:

- a. Interview with Miss Katherine Conlin, Windsor Town Clerk, Windsor, Vermont.
- b. Hamilton Child, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse, New York: Hamilton Child, 1884).
- c. Old Buildings Project of the Robert Hull Fleming Museum at the University of Vermont, Burlington, 1937-1938.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and Henry C. Edwards,  
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September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a large frame house with a decorated facade that shows the influence of Asher Benjamin, who was in Windsor around 1800. This house originally stood near two houses designed by Benjamin which no longer exist. In spite of many alterations and additions, the original design of the house is largely visible, particularly on the front.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in poor condition, particularly the interiors. The present owner intends to demolish the building rather than restore it to use.

B. Technical Description of the Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Two-story building, front rectangular block 42-1/2 feet wide by 23 feet plus deep ell to the rear.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame with clapboard siding.
4. Porches: Open front porch, wood posts, roof and railing around roof, one-story high across entire front, apparently much later than the house.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimneys, two in front block, one in rear ell.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel front door in elaborate

doorway with side and fan lights, pilaster frame.  
Various paneled doors on sides and rear of building,  
some with transom lights.

- b. Windows and shutters: 6/6-light double-hung windows in front of house and parts of ell. 12/12-light double-hung windows in parts of the ell. Fixed slat shutters on the front and most of the sides, largely missing on rear parts of the building.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hipped roof on front, gabled roof on rear ell. Wood shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves with crown mould, bed mould and entablature band with triglyphs.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor plans: Central hall type plan with principal rooms to either side; dining room, kitchen and store rooms to the rear in the ell. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement.
- 2. Stairways: Front and back stairways. Front stairway in central, entrance hall, open stairway, straight run, simple moulded handrail with square balusters.
- 3. Flooring: Wood.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, partly wallpapered.
- 5. Doors: Four and six panel wood doors.
- 6. Trim: Simple, moulded wood trim.
- 7. Hardware: Some original brass and wrought-iron hardware.
- 8. Lighting: Electric.
- 9. Heating: Central.

D. Site:

- 1. General setting and orientation: House faces southeast on a narrow lot on the main street of the business district of a small town.
- 2. Landscaping: Overgrown with weeds.